UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25850
27 May 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 26 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward to you the fax-transmitted statement of His Excellency Mr. Levon Ter-Petrossian, President of Armenia, regarding the initiative presented on 18 May 1993 by the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Group, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the Republic of Turkey.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this statement as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement dated 26 May 1993 by the President of the Republic of Armenia

The decision of the Republic of Armenia to give its consent to the "3+1" initiative of 18 May and to assume responsibility for the full implementation of provisions relevant to Armenia is based on the conviction that the initiative presents the first serious opportunity for peace in the region which, in turn, makes possible the resolution of the Nagorny Karabagh conflict through peaceful negotiations.

Adopting such a position, Armenia has taken into consideration Security Council resolution 822 (1993), which must be complied with fully and without delay by all countries and parties to the conflict, as well as the necessity of avoiding the escalation and deepening of the war, for the security of the countries in the region.

These considerations notwithstanding, it must be noted that the initiative leaves room for concern with regard to the guarantees for the security and rights of the people of Nagorny Karabagh. Armenia is not fully convinced that Azerbaijan has relinquished its policy of resolving the Nagorny Karabagh conflict through military means.

Nevertheless, Armenia is determined to take those steps that could enhance the existing possibilities. Armenia, therefore, not only reconfirms that all of its transportation routes are open to its neighbours, including the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan, but that it is also ready to commit itself to a multi-party, regional agreement on this subject.

Resolving to strengthen the possibilities of peace, Armenia is also obligated to take on additional responsibilities for the security of the people of Nagorny Karabagh, in fact to act as the guarantor for the strict implementation of points of accord. Hence, the Republic of Armenia declares, in no uncertain terms, that it will not tolerate any violation of such points of accord, and expects that corresponding obligations will also be assumed by the authors of the initiative and the international community.

To date, four years after the militarization of the Nagorny Karabagh conflict, the international community, including the United Nations, CSCE and individual countries, have taken practically no steps to defend the civilian population of Nagorny Karabagh from the Azerbaijani blockade, carnage, deportations and aerial bombardments. The international community cannot insist on upholding one aspect of international law while ignoring another.

The remilitarization of Kelbajar in case of the withdrawal of the Self-Defense Forces of Nagorny Karabagh or, more generally, the resumption of military activities by Azerbaijan after the cessation of military activities as foreseen in the initiative not only threaten the security of the people of Nagorny Karabagh but also, leading the mediation effort to failure, irretrievably discredit the notion of international mediation itself.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia is prepared to bring its constructive participation to the implementation of the initiative, with the understanding that by accepting this initiative Azerbaijan will have, once and for all, renounced its policy of resolving the Nagorny Karabagh conflict through military means. The authors of the initiative, the international community and especially the United Nations and the CSCE, should henceforth hold Azerbaijan responsible for any violation of international law and standards of behaviour.